

October 8, 2019

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Dr. Nicole Albisu-- Superintendent  
Board of Trustees--Ontario 8c School District

To Whom It Concerns,

This letter is to inform you that I am resigning my position at Ontario High School as Head Football Coach because of philosophical differences. To be clear, Dr. Elizondo never personally witnessed, at any level, me coaching the team or my interactions with players. Practices and games were observed, by Athletic Director Josh Mink, and I was not made aware of philosophical differences until this day 9-25-2019.

It is with a heavy heart that I leave a football community that I love and have tried to work hard for every day since June 1, 2019. The hardest part is saying good-bye to my players who have been with me from the start of my short tenure as head coach here at Ontario. I love this community, and it has offered great support to the program during the time I have been here. I have come to a fork in the road in which I can fight for change for the students or change my direction to further my career and move on both personally and professionally. I have chosen the latter. I came into education for many reasons--one being the relationships I develop with all students not just those I coach. I always try to put kids first and to bring excitement into the programs of which I have been a part. Ontario has not provided me that opportunity. It is disheartening when you put your all, including your family, into a program run by the few. The silent majority is in favor of what was being done in our program; the few win at the detriment of so many including my family. Many promises made to me prior to accepting this position never came to fruition, such as having the opportunity to coach other sports, teaching an athletic conditioning class, and teaching PE/Health as I began the year doing. I have done nothing but put Ontario first every day in education, athletics, and whatever else was asked. I have been made out to be someone I am not by people who are jealous of what was accomplished in a short amount of time. My relationships in education and coaching have proven to be stronger than anything that has been thrown at me at the high school. Ontario High Football, among other issues facing the district, is not a culture I feel I can coach in successfully. My philosophy of coaching after 18 years requires athletes to be coachable, teachable and respectful. I desire to be a part of a program that encourages all to improve everyday so that *all* students and *all* athletes can be successful.

I am confident that the Ontario Football program was taking a turn for the better as kids were becoming more respectful, more kids were participating in football, coaches were becoming more visible to the younger grades, and an attitude of less "me" and more "we" was emerging. It is my hope that the community can find common ground with the school and put the students and athletes first in their decision-making process. I am truly a

October 8, 2019

by-product of a fight that existed long before I came here with my family. We were bridging that gap with sponsors, community support and involvement, and overall school spirit. It is just sad as we had so much more planned for the school and program that I looked forward to in both the remainder of the season and in the off-season.

I want to take this moment to thank the Ontario community, my players, parents, and supporters, along with certain colleagues who supported me along the way. I appreciate the opportunities and growth being the head coach has afforded me here at Ontario, as I have learned a lot over the past few months about the good and bad of being a Head Coach in programs that support their students vs. programs that just talk about it. I hope in the short time here I have provided a little light into the importance of team and commitment to the place in which you live.

I have not had the opportunity to speak to the team face-to-face. Do know this, (and I spoke about this every day), it is your passion that drives you every day to do great things. A coach is there to push you to be your best in all you do. I hope that the passion and dedication I showed far outweighs the drama and pettiness this situation has shown, as there was nothing I would not do for anyone in Tiger Nation! Best of luck to all the players, parents, and patrons of Ontario. For those who fought the changes I was making, I wish nothing but the best for you. I just hope that you one day realize that just because it's been done the same way for years, doesn't make it the right way.

Sincerely Yours,

Tony Cade